



By Orville G. Victor.

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MEN'S garments, for spring and summer, 1912, will show a distinct difference from those of last year and the year before. This applies to overcoats and undercoats alike; also to vests and trousers, though not in such marked degree, perhaps, in regard to the latter.

"We are getting away from the tight English coat," said William D. Sharpe, a well-known tailor and draper of Fifth avenue, New York City, who was, until a year ago, an official of the Custom Cutters' Club, and is a recognized authority on matters sartorial. "Coats for the coming season will be more as they were a few seasons ago. They will be cut in accordance with common-sense ideas. The exaggerated chest and shoulder will be noticeable only by their absence. In other words, a man's chest, in his coat, will appear where his chest ought to be."

This is entirely in consonance with the plans of the high-class ready-made trade, whose designers are not to be outdone by their "made-to-order" competitors. Nearly without exception, drawings for spring and summer overcoats show nice, semi-shapely garments—not tight fitting, nor yet loose. The average overcoat will be neither long nor short, but will reach to the knee. Big "patch" pockets and cuff ornamentations will no longer be seen. In fact, all bizarre effects are to be carefully avoided. Nicely fitting, general garments, built along natural lines will have the call.

The dress overcoat, as usual, is to be made, as a rule, from a soft worsted. For general business wear and outing, fancy chevrons will have the preference, though raglans and homespun will also be in favor. It is predicted that the "country coat" will meet with favor throughout the United States. This is well adapted to all the various uses to which an outer garment may be subjected; like the ordinary topcoat, it is made chiefly of

cheviot, though the matter of fabric is, of course, one of individual choice with the wearer. These are to be made up chiefly in grays, as that color, in all shades, will continue to predominate in outer garments, both in stripes and solids. Brown is always a favorite with many, and makes up nicely with an almost imperceptible plaid, visible only by change of light, or with a tiny red or purple thread running through the weave, giving it just a suggestion of brighter coloring. Herringbones are losing favor; the oblique wale, especially in rough materials, will be in great demand.

Serges, Scotch chevrons and tweeds will predominate in the make-up of spring and summer suits and overcoats this year. The well-dressed man may take his choice from a countless variety of color combinations, including many novel arrangements of twists and compound mixtures, brown-grays, blue-grays, silver-grays; Chanticleer colorings, goblin blue mixtures, etc. Some of the light overcoats will have a tab on the sleeve, but most of them

will be finished with a small, one-inch vent, with no button.

In both the overcoat and the cutaway the length of the garment will be a little shorter, and the waist line will be higher than last season's. Except in overcoats, stripes will not be greatly in evidence, and when seen on ordinary day garments they will be very close and narrow.

According to some of the best known makers of good clothes, who are familiar with conditions throughout the country, the Norfolk is coming into great favor, and will be worn during the coming season more generally than ever before. These are to be made up with three buttons and the soft roll effect. Some will carry a belt all the way around the waist, but for the most part they will have a demi-belt, extending from side seam to side seam in the back. In these the most popular color is a blue-gray; they will be worn largely for motoring, golf and all out-door sports. Made up from fancy serges and worsteds, in stripes and figures, the Norfolk is a most attractive garment that can be worn at practically every outdoor function.

The ordinary business, or sack coat, will be made more or less close fitting, following the style of the cutaway and the topcoat. They will have two or three buttons, and five-button vests to match. The latter will not be so high-cut as heretofore, and after the winter season is past it will no longer be considered proper to have the vest show above the coat-opening when the top button of the coat is buttoned, except when the coat has the soft roll front. The vest will carry five buttons, and the opening will be wider than the present style demands.

A nice coat for younger men is of conservative cut and pattern of dark gray, brown or blue, with the edges bound. This coat carries four buttons, two side pockets with flaps to go in or out, and a welted breast pocket. The vest is of the same material, also bound at the edge, with five buttons and an inverted "V" at the bottom. Another coat that will no doubt find many admirers among men of all ages is a double-breasted, form-fitting garment with three buttons; this will be made up in all colors and shades, with one, two and three buttons on the cuff. With it should be worn a six-button vest, collarless—that is, when a vest is worn; the coat itself is well adapted to be part of a two-piece suit in warm weather, with trousers of the same material and color, or of lighter fabric and shade.

A blue serge form-fitting sack, with three buttons will find many admirers. With the soft-roll coat goes a vest made up skeleton, and literally as "light as a feather." All coats, sack and cutaway, have a button-hole in the left lapel. Some coats of dark material will be made up with turned back cuffs, but no button. These, it is predicted, will meet an enthusiastic reception from young men of the "college" type.

For those who do not care for the Norfolk there will be provided a soft roll English model with three buttons and an inverted pleat back; these are to be made of homespun, tweeds, cassimeres and vicunas; although they will have three buttons, only the middle one is supposed to be fastened. These will be found very "smart," and will doubtless meet with well-nigh universal approval.

Coats for outing suits—two-piece suits—will for the most part have turn-back cuffs, and the trousers will be finished in the same manner. But this will pertain to outing suits only; cuffs on trousers for ordinary wear will not be permissible. These suits will be made for the most part of serges, Scotch chevrons and tweeds, though some velours will be worn.

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